ART AND THE ARTISTS **ABOUT MUSIC** :-: REVIEWS OF RECENT BOOKS

Fine Arts Body Finds City Still Far Short of Ideal

Commissioners Sanguine of Future Perfection. But Report Much Ugliness Is Yet to Be Banned.

REE and fearless criticism, constructive in nature, has been a characteristic of publications and oral opinions emanating from the Commission of Fine Arts since that body's creation in 1910. The Commissioners, changthat body's creation in 1910. The Commissioners, changing as the years pass, each and every one inspired to guard jealously the art ideals of the Capital's founders, have striven courageously to transmute those ideals into actuality. As regards the location and style of public buildings and decorative structures and the treatment of public reservations, they never have yielded a jot to the assaults of blind utilitarianism—and this spirit they have been called upon and still are called upon frequently to oppose in and out of Congress.

The commission's forthcoming annual report, the ninth, might, then, are the strictly be expected to continue the policy of frankness in both

confidently be expected to continue the policy of frankness in both favorable and adverse criticism of those projects and developments which come under the domain of this group a group deriving power through the invariable expertness of the opinions delivered. Advance

Memorial Plans Approved.

ington in the great central compo

Potomac Bridges Rapped.

sheets amply demonstrate that the policy is adhered to.

A resume of all public works under the commission's jurisdiction, either in process of establishment or change, or contemplated for the future. Is contained in the brochure which will come to the hand of the President and the Commission of the State of the President and the Commission of the State of the President and the Commission of the State President and the Congress. In nearly every case, criticism liberally intersperses these brief summaries, and the whole forms a valuable treatise on public art in Washington, past, present and future.

Plan of 1901 Continues-The preface is optimistic of the full fruition of the plans of L'Enfant, Washington, Jefferson and

The preface is optimistic of the rail fruition of the plans of L'Enfant, Washington, Jefferson and those other artisits and executives of more than a century ago who wisioned here the most beautiful capital in the world.

"Congress has authorized the occupation of the north side of the former site of the Pennsylvania station) by the George Washington Memorial, a building to hoppy a large auditorium

"Twenty years ago," it is related, "Senator James McMillan reported to the Senate from the Committee on the District of Columbia, a plan for the development of the park system of the District and for the location of government buildings.

Washington Memorial, a building to be occupied by a large auditorium and several smaller halls. Plans for such a building were prepared and were approved by the Commission of Fine Arts. Auditoriums, both large and small, designed for location of government buildings. system of the District and for the clocation of government buildings. This plan was prepared by direction of the Senate. There was no intention to have the plan adopted; it was simply a project for the development of the Capital along lines of convenience, good order, and beauty. The inherent excellence of the plan as presented is proved by the fact that during the two decades that have elapsed since its publication many and great improvements have been made in accordance with it, its main outlines have been filled in beyond the poscordance with it, its main outlines have been filled in beyond the possibility of change; those departures which have occurred (as in the case of the location of the Interior Department; the architectural design of the War Ris! Insurance buildings, and the location of the Navy and the Munitions buildings) are conceded to be mistakes and blemishes. There is no movement to change the plan. On the contrary, all forces are working together toward the realization of it."

Then, under the caption "The Record of Twenty Years," the Commissioners proceed to tell the tale of Washington's esthetic development. Following are excerpts from the various appended sections, in which the needs of the future, immediate for more remote, are especially stressed:

more remote, are especially

or more remote, are especially stressed:

Primarily Government Seat.

"Inasmuch as Washington exists primarily as the seat of government, all else should be subordinated to this main idea. Members of Congress and their families, as well as government officials genernated to this main idea. Members of Congress and their families, as well as government officials generally, must live here during their terms of office. Moreover, the citizens of the country come to the Capital to transact public business, Hence the city must be provided with all those facilities demanded by the civilization of today—with libraries, schools, hospitals and libraries, schools, hospitals and saylume, parks and playgrounds. asylums, parks and playgrounds. Public buildings, besides perform-ing the indispensable function of affording places in which to work. should also express the dignity. and permanence of the na tion. Here, too, should be erected ments which not only commemorate men and events but also teach the history of this country to the successive generations about to take their turn in the administra-tion of government. All these elements have their place in the devel-opment of the National Capital. All were considered in the L'Enfant plan of 1792, and all have been restudied in the light of the requireents of this present twentieth

Gardens for Terminal.

"The Union Station Plaza needs a frame and the now neglected space in part may properly be occupied by public buildings designed to form a portion of the group begun by the station and the new Postoffice Building. The remainder of the space may well be occupied by gardens as fine and as beautiful as can be devised. Congress should ovide a plan for the development provide a plan for the development of this entire area, leaving to the future the carrying out of the work. Several years must be occupied with securing the necessary legislation and making and approving the de-sign, so that no considerable appro-priation will be possible for several

Capitol Plaza Development.

"By common consent the remain-ing vacant space facing the Capitol on the east has been assigned to a building for the Supreme Court of the United States, since the removal of the seat of government to the District of Columbia in 1800 occupying the same building with the Congress. A separate building for the Supreme Court is one of the projects to be left to the time when the increasing demands of Congress for space in the Capitol shall make for space in the Capitol shall make the removal of the court impera-tive. Occupiers of land to be taken, however, should face the probabil-ity that sooner or later their hold-ings will be required for govern-ment purposes.

ings will be required for government purposes.

On the south below the House Office Building the frontage is occupied by nondescript buildings, by a gravestone factory, and by bill-boards, all undignified and unsightly. The obvious use of this land is building sites and House gardens to balance those to be mit into the area on the north. This also is a project for the future.

Posies for Congressmen. 'The present Botanic Garden is used to supply to members of Congress cuttings of shrubs and plants

for distribution among their con-stituents and flowers for their own use. Both of these purposes can be subserved and enlarged by removing the present greenhouses to the area occupied by the James Creek Canal and now filled in and left in an unimproved condition, a location in close proximity to the space occu-pied by those portions of the Bot-anic Garden outside of the Mall agea. When the project for Conress gardens north and south of in harmony with the Treasury Building, forms a constituent portion of the group to frame Lafayette Square. The plans already developed contemplate extending the annex to H street, the present building being one-third of the complete structure.

"In the hurry of war needs the plans for a hotel at the northwest corner of Vermont avenue and H street were used for a building to house the War Risk Insurance activities. The building in its de-sign and its height is a serious de-parture from the plan of 1901, and for an indefinite time the only purpose it can serve the cause of good planning is that of a terrible warn-ing.

D. C. Fountains Dry.

an ornament to the city and as a means of mitigating the intense heats of summer. The McMillan fountain, one of the beautiful fountains of this country, is the chief feature of McMillan Park, so named in honor of the Senator to whom so many improvements in the District of Columbia are due. A fountain of exquisite design has replaced the of Columbia are due. A fountain of exquisite design has replaced the statue of Admiral Dupont in Dupont Circle, and three fountains in the Union Station Plaza represent the additions since 1901 to the city fountains. Meanwhile the water supply, inadequate twenty years ago, is now so limited as to preclude the playing of the fountains during periods when they are most needed. Washington fountains are dry fountains. The McMillan fountain is designed to use water on its way from the reservoir to the filter beds; the Dupont fountain is supof the James Creek Canal spaces would work a much-needed change in a tract of land sadly in need of development and would result in an agreeable park connection between the Capitol grounds and the grounds of the Army War College. beds; the Dupont fountain is sup-plied by an electric pump which pumps the same water over and over again; but Congress has not made the appropriation necessary to supply the current and the foun-tain remains dry. The plaza foun-tains also are supplied by electric pumps. It is to be hoped that in the increase in the water supply recently provided for by Congress a sufficient quantity of water may be available to utilize these sources of health and enjoyment. beds; the Dupont fountain is sup health and enjoyment.

> Lower Avenue a Diagrace. "The McMillan report advises the purchase of the squares south of

Pennsylvania avenue between that thoroughfare and the Mall. Con-gress made a start on such pur-chases by taking the blocks bounded by Pennsylvania avenue, Fifteenth, B and Fourteenth streets for the B and Fourteenth streets for the Department of Justice, the then Department of Justice, the then Department of Commerce and Labor and the Department of State. Plans ducted? I asked him. Twenty-for these buildings were secured by competition, were submitted to the Commission of Fine Arts and approved, but a change of administration intervened to prevent the proproved, but a change of administra-tion intervened to prevent the pro-ject from being carried out. No fur-ther action has been taken and the frontage on Pennsylvania avenue near the Capitol has steadily dete-riorated until today it is admittedly a disgrace to the Capital. Rooming houses, laundries, the cheapest class of hotels and junk shops line the chief thoroughfare. chief thoroughfare.

"The desirability of widening the Conduit road from Georgetown to Great Falls and securing the control of the Potomac banks was dwelt upon in the report of 1901. This project depended more or less on the necessity, even then apparent, of increasing the Washington water supply. That necessity has now become so acute that Congress has been forced to act. In the work of increasing the water sup-ply the park features should not be lost sight of. An area on both sides of the river at Great Falls neces-sary to protect the government works should be secured and become a portion of the park system. The road leading thereto should be boulevarded and a driveway, now much used, but narrow, dangerous and ill kept, should be turned into well-ordered and well-policed

Conclusions and Outlook.

the long-contemplated memorial to Abraham Lincoln. This they did the long-contemplated memorial to Abraham Lincoln. This they did with full comprehension of the fact that by common consent Lincoln is the one man in the history of this nation worthy to stand with West parts. Professed to the contemporary compositions of the Sental accomplishment during two for instance, whom I greatly admire, reached his highest expression in Petrouchka, and has now Professedly that report out lined development to cover an in-definite period of years; and even the most optimistic of its authors could not have anticipated the ac-"The McMillan act for the elimination of grade crossings in the District of Columbia provided for the construction of two bridges across the Potomac, one for steam railroads and the other for vehicles. The railroads were feeling the columbia. tual strides toward accomplishment that twenty years would bring about. It is a tribute to the inher-ent worth of the plan that, while so across the Potomac, one for steam railroads and the other for vehicles. The railroads were facing the extended to the control of the control ent worth of the plan that, while so little has been done contrary to it, so much has been achieved in accordance with it. It is doubly fortunate, also, that the great features of the plan, its general outlines, its fundamental principles as to the disposition of public monuments and buildings and parks and parkways, have been adopted and are the controlling motives for future work. trolling motives for future work.
This is due largely to the fact that
the plan of 1991 was based on the
L'Enfant plan of 1792, the authority L'Enfant plan of 1792, the authority of which plan needed only to be asserted to be recognized. It is no disparagement, but is rather a tribute, to the authors of the plan of 1901 that they recognized the excellence of the work done in the beginning and set themselves to the task of carrying on what has been so well begun.

"This is a restless era. All sorts of suggestions are being made for improvements and changes. Many of these new projects are based on the desire of individuals to exploit the gesire of individuals to exploit themselves. Others are due to ig-norance of the existing plan and the progress of the work being done in accordance with it or to im-patience at delays in accomplishing

traffic and design.

Temporary Buildings Hiseons.

"The temporary war buildings used by the Navy Department and the munitions division of the War Department may be used for a time in order to house government work ers until new and appropriate buildings can be constructed elsewhere. These temporary buildings are so factorylike in design and they so invade, encroach upon and disfigure poople will not suffer them permanently to overawe and dwarf one of their greatest memorials. Sooner of later the Lincoln Memorial will drive the usity structures to destruction. They represent today one of the hideous consequences of the work being done in activation. They represent today one of the hideous consequences of the work being done in activation. They represent today one of the hideous consequences of the work being done in activation. They represent today one of the hideous consequences of the work of the world.

"In 1920 a bill was introduced in the State Department the entire is Seventeenth street. This bill had the approval of the President and the Secretary of State. Considering the combined business and social uses for which the State Department was portion of the square. The stadily declined during the past decades, so that there are now but one or two houses of consideration where twenty years ago the square was one of the city's social centers.

"The Treasury Annex, constructed"

DAMROSCH FINDS **EUROPE SUNK IN MUSICAL SLOUGH**

Search for Compositions For N. Y. Symphony Disappointing.

It has been the frequently-voiced "The report of 1901 laid particu-lar stress upon the need in the Dis-trict of Columbia for the abundant use of water in fountains, both as an ornament to the city and as a has not been the case with literature, painting or sculpture. And now comes one of our best-known masters with evidence that the same inertia exists in the field of

It is none other than Walter Damrosch, the genial and unsurassed conductor of the New York Symphony, who recently returned from the other side after a more or less fruitless quest for new compositions of merit for his practiced hoirs. In an interview granted to John Alan Haughton of Musical America, Damrosch takes a gloomy view of the possibility of a musical renaissance on the continent or in England in the near future. "I do not believe," he said, "tha

there will be any improvement for a long time to come. There has been no startling rise of genius anywhere that I can see, and in the rehearses every day, the London Symphony only twice for each concert, and it gives only nine concerts during the season. Gabriel Pierne, confluctor of the Lamoureux Or-chestra, said to me this summer that he was so fatigued that he

Orchestras Side Issues.

"Their orchestras only cost about half what ours do, and the players are all occupied with other things, so as far as the orchestra is concerned it is a side issue. With us it is the other way about and if our men. do anything on the outside,

that is the side issue.
"The principal novelty for my orchestra for the coming season will be d'Indy's new symphony, Le Rivage, which he will conduct him-self during December. I have other things under consideration, but I am not ready at present to make any announcement. There are not many, but they are mostly Fre and one is Italian. I did not find anything of the German composers that struck me particularly. It is not that I have the slightest feeling against German music, but simply that I was not impressed with the works I looked over.

"As a matter of fact, much of the recently-composed music seems to me to get nowhere at all. Art, any art, must be a crystallization of dreams of beauty which cannot be realized in this world, but which we strive to achieve in art. If you merely seek to be original, to get into the fouth dimension just for 'In comparing the projects for the sake of getting there, the result the improvement of the park system of the District of Columbia as Many of the contemporary composition in the report of the Sen gone beyond ideals. school is merely groveling in ugli

"The old landmarks are gone and so far no new ones have been set up. But the human ear, like the donkey's back, is patient and after a while it acepts with fortitude or indifference what at first was painful. Debussy opened a door to per-petual modulation which should have made possible infinite beauties of composition. But what has happened? With such frequent drop-ping from key to key, the ear loses all sense of tonality. The thing becomes monotonous and too much as though when walking through a wood you have a chance to adif you whize past at lightning speed there is only a blur.

"Of course one of the things that interested me most was the Amer-ican Conservatory at Fontainebleau, which is meeting with the most tremendous success. It is astonish-ing what the French artists and the government have done.

New Conservatory Su-

"The idea, you know, was the result of a talk I had with Casadesus when I was in France with Gen.
Pershing establishing the army
music school at Chaumont. I asked Casadesus why the French had never done anything to attract the American music student as the Germans had done. I suggested a sum-mer school where advanced students and teachers could have the advan-tage of contact with prominent French musicians, Casadesus liked the idea and talked of it to the mayor of Fontainebleau and with the prefect of the department who happened to be a friend of his, and the matter was finally placed before the minister of fine arts who had the palace of Fontainebleau under

"That is how it began. The wing of the palace which had been used for a hospital was fitted up, electric lights installed, modern plumbing put in and the rooms furnished

charmingly. "The day of the opening was a real celebration. We drove up to the palace between lines of French mal opening was in the Pavilion Henry II. Later, in the Parc, Casa-desus conducted a cantata he had composed for the occasion. It was

composed for the occasion. It was sung by 200 voices and accompanied by a military band. And of course the evening ended with fireworks, without which no French celebration is a celebration!

"The pupils are all wildly enthusiastic about the school and about the work not only on account or its excellence but also its cheapness. For \$100 a month they have their instruction, their living quarters and three splendid meals a day.

"It is, as I said in my speech, the only time in the world's history only time in the world's history

Find Europe's Music Waiting Renaissance



New York Symphony conductor, who, returning from a thoughts as to the condition of the Continent.

that a nation has established a school exclusively for the student of one other friendly nation. The only approach to it was Masarin's Institute which was for Spain, Enganywhere that I can see, and in the matter of performance, with the orchestras specially, they simply have not the money to spend on rehearsals. All of our twelve great orchestras in the United States are heavily subsidized for one thing, rehearsals. The New York Symphony rehearses every day, the London Symphony only twice for each consumption.

ARTISTIC TRAIL LEADS VISITOR

TO S. W. SECTION Finds Fabricators of Objects d'Art Busy and Prosperous.

By GERTRUDE BRIGHAM, Ph. D. "Have you ever visited the Southwest to find your clusive Art Colmy?" bantered a connolsseur.

"Joking aside, you really should go, for there you may see a genuine Washington art industry, the Borghese Reproductions" prompted mnanion. So I went.

Candle sticks of quaint and aftistie design, jewel boxes, book ends. fruit bowls, reproductions of old Renaissance paintings, with other bric-a-brac, and now even clocks, are all manufactured there, by Nie-"We removed our business down

cause rents were too high at our former exhibition studio on H street in the northwest and we could not get enough people to see our work. here rents are low, and new our business is developing all over the United States and Canada, especially in the Middle West and California. We employ between twenty and thirty men, mostly Italians, who understand such work from own country."

Copy Classic Models, For several years Niepold and by which they reproduce the effect of antique metal. Artistic designs are chosen and copied in moreis, from which a glue mold is then

made as with a plaster bast for a bronse reproduction.

"Our effort," added Mr. Niepold, "Anything in three dimensions we composition we use. We have now arrived at something quite satisfactory. This is run into the moid, and when cooled and removed, the object is ready for the finishing process, the artistic painting. This last is exceedingly important because the effect of antiquity must be attained and also the appearance of metal, or the plastic medium of the earlier original. We are all the time improving our designs. Frank Niepold of our firm has pust returned from three months in Italy, spent principally in studying new designs, such as those of the Borghese palace in Florence.

The familiar logenge of the Medici, portraits of Dante, Savonarola, Marietta Strozzi, Donatello's Mona Lisa. Botticelli faces, archaic altar pleces, wall scohoes, jewel boxes, and mirror frames, all testify to an American passion for the beautiful, and a developing taste in its selection.

Is Landscape Painter.

Frank Niepold, who is prominent

Is Landscape Painter.
Frank Niepold, who is prominent

in the Arts Club, is a well-known Washington landscape painter. He was the only Washingtonian to have a picture acepted in the last exhibition of the Pennsylvania cademy.

Concrete as an artistic medium.

here," explained John Niepold. "be- in G street northwest, where archipresented in polychromatic effects by a new process.

John J. Earley, the proprietor, is

of the fifth generation of the fifth generation of the fifth generation to the possibilities of developing a new medium. The Childe Hassam style, as cliustrated in the "New York Win sculptor with a small shop in Twenty-fifth street northwest, just helow St. Stephen's Church. with his flower vases and boxes jars, tiles and benches, made of concrete spotted with colored aggre-gates in a composition of complementary colors. Potomac gravel furnishes some of his material, but lad, do all this work themselves, much of it comes from widely scat- and they have received some large tered parts of the United States.

developed in concrete.

Mr. Earley's employes are mostly Italians, as he says they seem to understand the work better than others. A tail column, an exact model of those of the Parthenon, serves as a model in which were serves as a mold in which, part by part, modern columns are produced for Mr. Earley's architectural build ing construction now going on in Nashville, Tenn., a memorial to the war heroes. This building, which has fifty-eight columns, is the only reproduction of the Parthenon drawn to exact scale, in America.

below St. Stephen's Church.
Some of the old Greek designs of jars, with nymphs and satyrs, are really beautiful in the tawny yelow given to the stucce or cement. Franceski and his son, an intelligent

Have You Been Using This Free Herald Service

C OME time ago The Herald announced the institution of a "ROOM RENTING BUREAU." It is only natural that rendering such a service should result in the rapid growth of the bureau. Still, there are some folks who could well use the service and who have not, as yet, taken advantage of it.

Room-Renting Service Bureau

-offers a free service to those in search of rooms, apartments and houses, and those who have such places for rent. There is absolutely no charge—you do not have to be a subscriber to The Herald.

If you have a room, apartment or house which you desire to rent, call The Herald and have it listed. If you are searching for a place, call at The Herald office, or telephone, and a list will be given you.

That this service fills a long felt want in Washington is demonstrated by the enthusiastic praises of those who have used it. This is just a further proof of the fact that The Herald is "Devoted to the Public Service."

The Washington Herald

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